

SUMMARY OF OPA ORDERS ISSUED DURING WEEK ENDING JULY 31 AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

Prepared especially for State Extension Directors

By the OPA

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Action to restore normal channels of distribution for canned fruits and berries featured OPA's activities of greatest interest to the farmer during the past week.

CANNED FRUITS AND BERRIES

Price Administrator Leon Henderson formally announced the method by which canners may pass on to wholesalers their actual increased raw material and labor costs on the 1942 pack of canned fruits and berries (OPA Release 357).

Five days later, OPA followed up its earlier announced intention of passing on such increased costs by preliminary announcement of the basic formula by which it shortly will increase wholesalers' and retailers' ceilings on these canned fruits and berries by about 15 to 25 percent (OPA-404). Included in the wholesale and retail announcement was the indication that OPA also would move to facilitate imports of Hawaiian, Puerto Rican, and Cuban pineapple by means of new formula method.

JAMS, JELLIES, AND PURE PRESERVES

Formula is announced by which ceiling prices for pure preserves, jams, and jellies from the 1942 pack will be increased by about 15 percent at the manufacturer level only (OPA-421).

MEATS

OPA's Consumer Division advised families to purchase poultry, fish, and other protein foods, which are plentiful, during the temporary prospective 4- to 6-week shortage of beef, veal, and pork (OPA-379).

Sellers of beef and veal to hotel and restaurant trade were provided relief through permission to compute their sales to this type of trade as though by a separate seller (OPA-388). In the same amendment, institutional buyers are afforded a slight increase in selling prices, nullifying the previous fact that they were at a competitive disadvantage in purchasing.

OPA relaxed delivery provisions of the order governing Army purchases of certain canned meats and frozen boneless beef (OPA-365). This permits Army buyers to assume the difference in transportation costs when they divert the shipment from the originally agreed point.

IRON AND STEEL SCRAP

Reports suggesting the necessity of a \$2 per ton increase in OPA's iron and steel scrap ceiling were described today by Donald D. Kennedy, price executive of OPA's Iron and Steel Branch, as being "utterly without foundation and seriously detrimental to the war effort" (OPA-378).

PANCAKE FLOUR

Wholesalers and retailers of low-cost, nonadvertised pancake and buck-wheat pancake flour, now squeezed by manufacturer price increases during the past year, will be allowed to increase prices 1 cent per package. A package costs 5 to 7 cents at retail (OPA-422).

Virginia Sweet Foods, Inc., of Greenfield, Ind., is granted permission to raise its ceiling prices on various types of pancake flour by 22 to 30 cents per case of twenty-four 20-ounce packages (OPA-386).

SOUPS

Relief for the squeeze on wholesalers and retailers handling products of certain large-volume soup manufacturers is provided by OPA (OPA-373). These soup manufacturers made substantial "opening price allowances" on some varieties of canned condensed soups early last season. Wholesalers and retailers passed on such saving to their clientele and, as a result, were penalized when prices were frozen.

RENTS

OPA moved against rising rents in 26 new communities with a population of about 1,500,000, recommending rents in these areas be cut back to levels prevailing last March 1. The new defense rental areas are scattered through 22 States (OPA-407).

SUGAR

Critical shortages of raw and refined sugar stocks in Louisiana and Texas cane refineries forced OPA to request the refiners in these States to withdraw from the sugar market in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio (OPA-397).

Food and beverage manufacturers who have contracts with or orders from the Army, Navy, or certain other Government agencies may now obtain sugar purchase certificates in advance of delivery of their products to those agencies (OPA-371).

COTTON PRODUCTS

Because prices governing cotton ducks are determined by different OPA regulations, depending upon the type of mill making the material and whether the fabric is for military or civilian use, OPA outlined the proper existing pricing methods to be used under the varying circumstances (T-636).

Jobbers and "secondary jobbers" of domestic woolen and worsted civilian apparel fabrics had their mark-ups adjusted to conform to customary trade margins (OPA-361).

WOOLENS

Provision was established for adjustable pricing contracts for the sellers of woolen and worsted civilian apparel fabrics who filed petitions for adjustment with OPA to make deliveries of goods which later may be adjusted in accordance with this provision (OPA-T-25).

WOMEN'S, GIRLS', AND CHILDREN'S GARMENTS

"Self-executing" formulas, establishing ceiling prices for sellers of new lines of women's, girls', and children's outer garments which were not in the same category as the clothing they delivered during the last season, are announced (OPA-T-21).

CONTAINERS

OPA set maximum prices, which will reflect price levels existing from October 1 to 31, 1941, for the sale of many paperboard products produced by manufacturers in the folding carton and set-up box industry and the corrugated and solid-fiber container industry (OPA-346).

Prices for western wooden agriculture containers - extensively used in the shipping and storing of fruits and vegetables - have been rolled back to levels prevailing in October and November (OPA-341).

WHEAT FLOUR

OPA inaugurated rationing of wheat flour on the islands of St. Thomas and St. John because of the shortage of wheat flour in the Virgin Islands (OPA-399). Each person will be limited to 2 pounds of flour per week.

LUMBER

West Coast hemlock and noble fir of "aircraft grade," which are used as substitutes for spruce in airplane manufacture, have been placed under the pricing provisions of the Aircraft Spruce Regulation (OPA-362).

Contracts for delivery of those lumber products which were placed under dollars-and-cents maximum prices and removed from the General Maximum Price Regulation provisions by the southern pine lumber regulation, are subject to the ceiling prices of the specific regulation, Price Administrator Leon Henderson warned (OPA-416).

WAREHOUSES

Fifty-five storage and warehouse establishments in California were authorized to increase maximum charges for specified services to levels recently approved by the California Railroad Commission (OPA-423). This affects 29 establishments, storing grain and rice.

ICE

Ice manufacturers who sell at retail and also sell to distributors and peddlers may make price adjustment applications on behalf of the distributors and peddlers customarily purchasing from them (OPA-396).

SHEEPSKINS

Uniform dollars-and-cents ceiling prices are set for all brands of New Zealand pickled sheepskins imported into this country (OPA-340).

TUNA FISH (ADJUSTMENTS)

The South Pacific Canning Co., Inc., of Long Beach, Calif., was granted permission to adjust its canned tuna fish prices upward \$5.84 per case to a price of \$22.84, f.o.b. cannery, for cases of 48 No. 1 size cans (OPA-387). Upward adjustments also were made in smaller-sized cans.

TOBACCO

Willard Tobacco Co., Hartsville, Tenn., will be allowed to reduce the size of their tobacco twists (a form of chewing tobacco) and yet sell the new and smaller sizes on the same basis as the old (OPA-368).

CAT AND DOG FOOD

A new formula was announced to assist animal food manufacturers in establishing ceiling prices on dry dog and cat food - a new product born of exigencies arising through WPB's restrictions on the use of tin (OPA-403).

PRICE CONTROL

Government control of prices and rents, where they are in effect, are doing a good job of holding down prices, but uncontrolled food prices are showing a definite inflationary tendency, Price Administrator Leon Henderson stated (OPA-376). The Administrator indicated in his first report to Congress on the operation of OPA under the Emergency Price Control Act that "The President's program will prevail and the battle against inflation will be won decisively" (OPA-384).

PEANUTS

All cleaned and raw shelled peanuts - except the small remaining portion of the 1941 crop - as well as sales or deliveries of salted peanuts and peanut butter are officially excepted from the provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-345).

KEROSENE

Permission to charge 3 cents a gallon above the established maximum price for kerosene transshipped from Puerto Rico to the Virgin Islands has been extended to September 21, 1942 (OPA-415).

FUEL

Distributors of "smithing coal" - a special purpose coal produced in small quantities and used mainly for heating metals - are provided with adequate operating margins under a new amendment (OPA-381).

An independent maximum price schedule for bituminous coal for direct use in vessels as "bunker fuel" has been announced (OPA-382).

PETROLEUM

A more comprehensive provision regarding the granting of relief from the maximum prices established in the petroleum and petroleum products schedules was announced (OPA-366).

BICYCLES

August bicycle rationing quota was set for 90,000 (OPA-372). This is substantially larger amount than the July adjusted quota. It does not include the State reserves totaling 30,000, nor the national reserve, which are held back for adjustment of quotas where emergency demand situations arise.

OPA warned that all new adult bicycles are subject to the rationing regulations even though they may have been disassembled or altered or the parts changed (OPA-383).

TIRES

OPA is studying prospective drastic new cuts in the list of trucks eligible for tires as a measure to keep the most vital vehicles rolling (OPA-364).

Names and addresses of OPA's field representatives who may be called on by tire dealers, recappers, truck operators, and other users of tires for advice and help in problems arising under rationing regulations have been made public (OPA-T-19).

To prevent tie-ups of essential transportation, OPA has provided means by which those who get rationing certificates can be supplied quickly with tires of any size (OPA-392).

CARS

More new cars are available for rationing in August than any other month except July (OPA-411). This occurred despite a reduction in new quota allotments because it was unnecessary to assign quota in some States where the unused carry-over from preceding months is ample to meet demand.

A sizeable reduction in the number of automobiles operating in the Eastern gasoline ration area is indicated by first reports on the number of basic A ration books issued (OPA-391).

GASOLINE

Coupon rationing of gasoline in Puerto Rico will begin August 1 (OPA-359)

Gasoline coupon counterfeiters will be prosecuted as rigorously as any saboteurs attacking our war program, Price Administrator Henderson declared (OPA-374).

GENERAL MAXIMUM PRICE REGULATION

Ethyl alcohol used in the manufacture of synthetic rubber is exempted from the General Maximum Price Regulation provisions (OPA-417).

OPA issued a question-and-answer release covering application of the General Maximum Price Regulation to pricing of orange juice, rubber bathing caps, shoes, coin phonographs, handicraft articles, pork, bread, and other commodities (OPA-412).

All price-regulated commodities imported into Alaska and resold there are brought under a cost-plus pricing method by a new Maximum Price Regulation, superseding Amendment No. 1 to Supplementary Regulation No. 13 (OPA-424)

Express prohibition against using several layers of price lists, one piled on top of another, to post ceiling prices was written into the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-350).

Advance deliveries in March 1942 of a small number of units under a firm commitment calling for later deliveries at the same price may be used by a seller in establishing his ceiling price under the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-T-20).

An amendment defining ores and ore concentrates, sales of which are exempted from the General Maximum Price Regulation, is announced (OPA-353).

Laundries must continue to offer the same low-priced services which they sold last March (OPA-360). To sell only the higher-priced services is a violation of OPA ceilings.

OPA is about to begin a program of enforcement of the General Maximum Price Regulation in areas where its educational activities have reached a majority of retailers (OPA-377).

COTTON LINTERS

Cents-per-pound price ceilings are authorized domestic cotton linters from some 75,000 bales of the 1941 crop not allocated to the chemical industry (OPA-400).